

Amendments to the Claims

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1. (Original) A method of preventing an increase in the blood level of IFN- γ in a subject at risk of an elevated IFN- γ blood level due to (i) administration of a therapeutic agent or (ii) a disease condition, comprising

orally administering interferon-tau (IFN τ) to the subject at a dosage of greater than about 5×10^8 Units to decrease the subject's IFN- γ blood level relative to the IFN- γ blood level in the absence of IFN τ administration.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said IFN τ is selected from ovine IFN τ and bovine IFN τ .

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said IFN τ has a sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:3.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said subject has an elevated IFN- γ level due to an autoimmune condition, and said orally administering continues during the period of the subject's symptoms.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said autoimmune condition is multiple sclerosis.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said autoimmune ~~conditions~~ condition is selected from the group consisting of Type I diabetes mellitus, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus erythematosus, psoriasis, Myasthenia Gravis, Graves' disease, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, Sjogren's syndrome, ankylosing spondylitis and inflammatory bowel disease.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said subject has an elevated IFN- γ level due to treatment with IFN- α or IFN- β , and said administering continues during the period of the subject's symptoms.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said orally administering of IFN τ is to a subject suffering from multiple sclerosis and being treated with IFN- β .

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said orally administering IFN τ is to a subject suffering from a viral infection and being treated with IFN- α .

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said orally administering IFN τ is to a subject suffering from a cellular proliferative condition and being treated with antiproliferative agent or being treated with IFN- α .

11. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said subject has an elevated IFN- γ level due to ~~the a disease conditions~~ a disease condition.